GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:204
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
Literacy Rate
Swami Maharaj Dr. Sakshi;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of literacy rate in the country, gender-wise and State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra at present along with the funds sanctioned/ spent and achievements made under the National Literacy Mission during the last three years and the current year;
(b) whether the Government proposes to provide special assistance to the States which have literacy rate below the national average and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is a fact that some smaller countries with limited resources have higher literacy rate as compared to India and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
(d) whether several States have demanded autonomy so as to facilitate to achieve learning outcomes and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon; and
(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for improving the standard of literacy in the States including Uttar Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 204 FOR 31.07.2017 ASKED BY DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ AND SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV REGARDING "LITERACY RATE".

(a) & (b) The literacy data in the country is collected through decennial census operation conducted by Registrar General of India. The last Census was held in 2011. A statement indicating details of literacy rate in the country, gender-wise and State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra as per Census 2011 is at Annexure-I. A statement indicating details of State/UT-wise funds sanctioned during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-II. A statement indicating the State/UT-wise number of learners appeared and declared successful in biannual basic literacy assessment tests (August and March) during the last three years is at Annexure-III.
Financial assistance is being provided to States/UT by Central and respective State Government for implementation of the programme in 410 districts in 26 States and one UT that had adult female literacy rate of 50% and below as per Census 2001 were identified for coverage under Saakshar Bharat programme. The Saakshar Bharat Programme also included Left Wing Extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rates. The Saakshar Bharat programme covers the rural areas of identified districts. Since 2015-16 onwards, the sharing of funds between centre and state is 60:40 ratio in all States except North Eastern States and three Himalayan States where the Central and State is 90:10 ratio.
In order to focus on the areas where the literacy levels are low, the Department of School Education & Literacy (SE&L) has identified Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). Initially 3073 EBBs were identified on the basis of the twin criteria of rural Female Literacy Rate being below the national average of 46.13 per cent and Gender Gap in Literacy being above the national average of 21.59 per cent as per Census 2001. Both these criteria had been earmarked by the Registrar General of India (RGI).
A further 406 more blocks were included, out of which 404 blocks had rural Female Literacy Rate of less than 45 per cent as per Census 2001, irrespective of the Gender Gap. In addition one Block from West Bengal with SC Rural Female Literacy Rate of 19.81 per cent and one block in Odisha with ST rural Female Literacy Rate of 9.47 per cent were also included, taking the total number of EBBs to 3479.
(c) No, Madam. The adult literacy rate of India was 69 per cent as reported by UNESCO in "Global Education Monitoring Report 2016" as compared to the adult literacy rate of neighboring countries such as Afghanistan (32 per cent), Pakistan (56 per cent), Bhutan (57 per cent), Nepal (60 per cent) and Bangladesh (61 per cent).

(d) There have been no demands from States for autonomy so as to facilitate achieving learning outcomes. However, this Department, in collaboration with NCERT, has finalized the learning Outcomes for all subjects at elementary level, which will be the expected levels of learning that students should achieve on completion of a particular class. These Learning Outcomes have also been incorporated in the Central Rules to the RTE Act 2009 by amending Section 23(2) of the Rules.

State and UT Governments have also been requested to translate these learning outcomes in their local languages and incorporate them in State RTE Rules at the earliest.

Under Saakshar Bharat programme, around 7.92 crore learners have been appeared under Basic Literacy Assessment Tests conducted between August, 2010 to August, 2016, out of which around 5.88 crore learners have successfully passed the assessment tests conducted under the programme and certified as literate.

(e) In order to improve literacy in the States including Uttar Pradesh, an assessment and certification of the competency levels of adults has been introduced under Saakshar Bharat programme. Only an adult, who confirms to the prescribed competency levels in reading, writing and numeracy, is certified as literate. Assessments are conducted through a system developed by National Literacy Mission Authority in consultation with National Institute of Open Schooling, an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

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